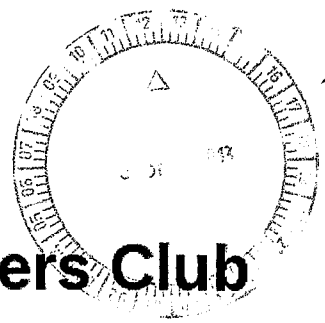




Pingelly Sporting Shooters Club

PO Box 170, Pingelly 6308



4th September, 2013

The Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation

Re: "Firearms Amendment Regulations 2013"

We are a small shooting club in a rural town in the Wheatbelt. We wish to register our strongest protest at the outrageous increases to the Firearms fees and charges that came into effect on July 1st, 2013. The increases are disproportionate, and totally out of step with the other states. To apply for an addition to a firearms licence in WA now costs seventeen times that charged in Victoria, and four times that of NSW which is the second most expensive state. It is hard to believe that these increases are to be treated with any credibility, and they appear to have been rushed through with no notice or public consultation. It could easily be perceived as nothing more than an attempt to stamp out firearm ownership and the clubs that go with that.

We hope that you will think long and hard about this current issue. It not only has an impact on individuals but also has an impact on sporting clubs in small rural communities. These fee increases are going to have the biggest impact on those who can least afford it. Many of our members are elderly or on other pensions. This has a seriously negative affect on their ability to maintain their sporting and social activities, which in a small country town tend to be a combination of both. The sport is open to anyone regardless of age, ability or capability. It supplies an important social outlet, particularly for those slowing down in life, but also allows interaction across age groups and sexes on an equal footing. It encourages young people to learn from those more experienced, and gives older people a chance to pass on those hard earned skills. Up until now the sport was also reasonably affordable.

The future of our sport and the future of clubs in small communities, particularly rural, is now at risk.. We hope that you will support any moves to have the current charges scrapped and replaced with something based on fairness and reason.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Taylor
(Secretary)
9887 0509

On behalf of the Committee and Members of the Pingelly Sporting Shooters Club, Inc.